

## CLAIMS

1. A playback device having a storage unit, comprising:

a playback unit operable to play back audio data stored  
5 in the storage unit; and

a control unit operable to store, in the storage unit,  
identification information of the audio data and specifying  
information specifying a storage location of the identification  
information, and sequentially store the audio data for playback  
10 in a remaining area of the storage unit.

2. The playback device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an audio data reading unit operable to read the audio data  
from a recording medium that is loaded in the playback device  
15 and contains a plurality of pieces of audio data and a plurality  
of pieces of identification information of the respective pieces  
of the audio data;

an identification information reading unit operable to read  
the identification information from the recording medium; and

20 a designating unit operable to designate, from among the  
plurality of pieces of audio data, a piece of audio data for  
playback,

wherein the control unit is operable to generate the  
specification information based on the identification  
25 information read by the identification information reading unit,  
and after storing the identification information and the  
specifying information to the storage unit, cause the audio data  
reading unit to read part of the designated piece of audio data,

and store the read part to the storage unit.

3. The playback device according to Claim 2,

5 wherein when any piece of the identification information exceeds a predetermined length, the control unit is operable to store the piece of identification information reduced to the predetermined length.

4. The playback device according to Claim 2,

10 wherein the control unit is operable to control the audio data reading unit, so that the audio data is sequentially read ahead of a current playback point and stored to the storage unit prior to playback by the playback unit.

15 5. The playback device according to Claim 1,

wherein the control unit is operable to store the identification information and the specifying information in a limited amount not occupying a storage capacity of the storage unit exceeding a predetermined percentage.

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6. The playback device according to Claim 1,

wherein the identification information is a file name of the audio data.

25 7. The playback device according to Claim 1,

wherein the audio data is compressed using a predetermined compression format.

8. A playback method for use by a playback device having a recording medium, comprising:

a playback step of playing back audio data stored in the recording medium; and

5 a control step of storing, in the recording medium, identification information of the audio data and specifying information specifying a storage location of the identification information, and sequentially store the audio data for playback in a remaining area of the recording medium.

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9. A computer program for causing a playback device having a recording medium to perform playback processing, said computer program comprising code operable to cause the playback device to perform:

15 a playback step of playing back audio data stored in the recording medium; and

a control step of storing, in the recording medium, identification information of the audio data and specifying information specifying a storage location of the identification information, and sequentially store the audio data for playback  
20 in a remaining area of the recording medium.